



County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Social Services

Bryce Yokomizo
Director

June 2, 2003

TO: Each Supervisor

Handwritten signature/initials

FROM: Bryce Yokomizo, Director

SUBJECT: **APRIL 1, 2003 BOARD MOTION - FOOD STAMP BENEFITS FOR FAMILIES OF MILITARY PERSONNEL SERVING ACTIVE COMBAT DUTY - UPDATE**

This is to provide your Board with an update to my memo of May 5, 2003 regarding my Department's efforts to ensure that families of military personnel serving combat duty retain Food Stamp benefits.

As I advised you in my previous memo, my Department submitted proposed federal bill language to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to exclude combat and hazard duty pay in the determination of Food Stamp benefits. We have consulted with USDA staff and they concur that a statutory change is needed to accomplish this goal. A representative from the USDA has agreed to review our proposed bill language in further detail and will respond back to us by the week of June 9, 2003.

Separately, the White House has asked various federal agencies, including USDA, to identify ways to provide assistance to military families. This current process within the federal Administration may provide an opportunity for USDA to pursue the change proposed by your Board.

My staff has also learned from USDA that the Department of Defense administers the Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance (FSSA) which provides a cash allotment of up to \$500 per month to low-income military families so these families will not need to rely on Food Stamp benefits. Families are eligible to FSSA benefits if the household income is within the gross income limits established under the Food Stamp Program. My staff will research FSSA further to determine if language is also needed to exempt combat and hazard duty pay in determining eligibility for this program, or whether exemption of this income in the Food Stamp Program would automatically resolve this issue under FSSA.

I will provide your Board with a follow-up report in 30 days.

BY:ve

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Auditor Controller